

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

SUBJECT:ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER DENNIS SEPTEMBER 19.

1. EASUM AND LOUGHREN (DIRECTOR WEST AFRICAN AFFAIRS)

MET WITH LIBERIAN DEL TO UN ON SEPTEMBER 19 AT ITS

HEADQUARTERS IN NYC: FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS EMERGED.

2. UNGA ISSUES - (A) PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH - FONMIN

WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY HAVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON MATTERS

INTEREST OUR TWO COUNTRIES. STATED THAT WHILE HE SOME-

WHAT DISAPPOINTED THAT LIBERIA (READ AFRICA) NOT INCLUDED

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IN PRESIDENT FORD'S REFERENCE TO US' TRADITIONAL FRIENDS

AND ALLIES GIVEN US/LIBERIAN RELATIONSHIPS OVER LAST 127 YEARS HE NONETHELESS WAS WARM IN HIS PRAISE OF CONTENTS OF SPEECH AND ALSO WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY SHAKE PRESIDENT'S HAND IN BRIEF MEETING WITH DELEGATES; (B) PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES- IN REPLY TO EASUM QUESTION DENNIS SAID HE HOPED AS WE DID THAT AFRICANS WOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY ACRIMONIOUS STATEMENTS AGAINST PORTUGUESE IN CURRENT SESSION. FOR ITS PART LIBERIA WELL AWARE OF SIGNIFICANT RECENT PROGRESS IN SOLVING PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES PROBLEM AND NOTED AFRICAN DELEGATES' WARM AND ENTHUSIASTIC REACTION TO SOARES/SPINOLA ACTIONS; (C) SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA- EASUM REVIEWED US POLICIES FOREGOING AREAS, EXPLAINING IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS

AND ACTIONS TO DATE ON REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT AND NOTING THAT AMBASSADOR PEAL HAD OF COURSE BEEN KEPT FULLY INFORMED. REPLYING, FONMIN SAID NOW THAT US HAD SUCCEEDED WITH PORTUGAL IT COULD DEVOTE ITS CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT TO SOLVING PROBLEM OF SOUTH AFRICA. ASSISTANT SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT THE US BUT THE AFRICANS, THE PAIGC, AND PORTUGAL WHO DESERVE PRAISE FOR THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE. ON SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA, EASUM REVIEWED ICJ AND UN ACTION SINCE 1950 EMPHASIZING THAT US POLICY SUPPORTS 1966 UN ACTION TERMINATING SA'S MANDATE AND THAT US CONSIDERS THAT SA OCCUPYING NAMIBIA ILLEGALLY. CONTINUING, HE NOTED WE MAINTAIN NO OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION, DISCOURAGE AMERICAN INVESTMENT, AND WITHHOLD EXIM GUARANTEES AND TRADE FACILITIES. EMPHASIZING OUR BELIEF THAT CHANGE SHOULD OCCUR PEACEFULLY US AT SAME TIME REGRETS THE BREAKING-OFF OF THE SYG/SA 1972/73 TALKS. ON SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF, EASUM DIFFERRED WITH DENNIS'S ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTENT OF OUR LEVERAGE ON SOUTH AFRICA NOTING HOWEVER, THAT OUR POLICIES ON SELF DETERMINATION AND APARTHEID REMAIN ABSOLUTELY CLEAR; (D) OTHER UNGA ISSUES- FONMIN HOPED SEE SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT AS A RESULT OF UNGA SPECIAL SESSION IN APRIL PARTICULARLY USG OFFER BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS TERRIBLE PERIOD OF INFLATION AND DEVASTATING INCREASE IN ENERGY COSTS.

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3. BILATERAL ISSUES - (A) FONMIN INQUIRED ABOUT RUMORS TO EFFECT VOLAG FOOD ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIAN CHILDREN AND NURSING MOTHERS WOULD BE HALTED. EASUM REPLIED THAT ACQUISITION OF FOOD STOCKS UNDER PL 480 PROGRAMS UNDER REVIEW OUT AS FAR AS HE AWARE LIBERIA WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THESE COMMODITIES. HE PROMISED FOLLOWUP AND INFORM LIBERIAN DEL; (B) DENNIS THEN REFERRED TO WHAT HAS GENERALLY BEEN ACCEPTED AS SPECIAL

US/LIBERIAN RELATIONSHIP ACKNOWLEDGING THERE IS NO PRECISE DEFINITION. IN REPLY EASUM STATED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT LONG HISTORY OF FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES DOES NOT REQUIRE PRECISE DEFINITION. CONTINUING HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT MAN OF DENNIS' ACCOMPLISHED LEGAL BACKGROUND IN BETTER POSITION TO DEFINE

RELATIONSHIP IF DESIRED; (C) FONMIN THEN PRESENTED PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S SCHEDULE FOR HIS PRIVATE VISIT TO US; ARRIVED NYC ON OCTOBER 30; TO RECEIVE FAMILY MAN AWARD OCTOBER 31; HONORARY DEGREE FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY NOVEMBER 1 AND LUNCHEON NOV. 4 AT AF/AM CHAMBER COMMERCE; DATE AND TIME PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO UNGA NOT YET CONFIRMED; FINALLY PLANNED DEPARTURE FROM NYC ON NOV. 6.

HE EXPRESSED TOLBERT'S SINCERE DESIRE HAVE AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT FORD DURING COURSE OF VISIT. THANKING FONMIN SECRETARY EASUM SAID HE WOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. KISSINGER

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